

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 202381

LIMDIS

FOLLOWING REPEAT NATO 4711 ACTION SECSTATE SECDEF
INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS USMBFR VIENNA SUSNMR SHAPE
USCINCEUR USLOSACLANT CINCLANT 31 AUGUST 1974. QUOTE:

C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 4711

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, NATO

SUBJECT: MILITARY PROCUREMENT AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 1975

REF: A. USNATO 4319

B. STATE 185915

C. USNATO 4587

D. USNATO 4659

1. DE ROSE (FRANCE) CAME TO SEE RUMSFELD ON AUGUST 30 TO DISCUSS
CONTENTSO F HIS LETTER TO ACTING SYG PANSA (REF C). DE ROSE SAID HE A
ND
HIS SENIOR STAFF HAD READ SECTION 302 AND RUMSFELD'S EXPLANATORY
LETTER WITH INTEREST, GRATITUDE, AND COLSE ATTENTION; AND THAT EACH
HAD SEPARATELY CONCLUDED THAT PHRASING OF STATUTE ITSELF WOULD, IF
IT CAME TO ATTENTION OF ANTI-U.S. EUROPEAN JOURNALISTS PROVE MOST
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UNHELPGUL. DE ROSE SAID HE WISHED CLARIFY MATTERS FOR HIMSELF

BEFORE REPORTING TO QUAL D'ORSAY.

2. WITH RESPECT TO 302(A), DE ROSE EXPRESSED SOME CONCERN. HE POINTED OUT THAT STATUTORY LANGUAGE, UNLIKE REPEATED ASSURANCES BY PRESIDENT TO ALLIES, DOES NOT SAY THAT THERE WILL BE NO REDUCTION IN STRENGTH OF U.S. TROOPS STATIONED IN EUROPE EXCEPT IN MBFR CONTEXT. ON CONTRARY, IT HAS RING OF MANSFIELD RESOLUTIONS IN THAT IT REQUIRES REDUCTION OF 18,000 IN A NON-COMBAT CATEGORY ALTHOUGH IT DOES AUTHORIZE SECDEF TO INCREASE COMBAT STRENGTH BY LIKE NUMBER.

3. RUMSFELD REPLIED THAT ONE SHOULD READ AND UNDERSTAND SECTION 302 IN CONTEXT AND IN LIGHT OF LEGISLATIVE HISTORY, AND AGAINST BACKGROUND OF NORMAL CONGRESSIONAL PROCEDURES. FIRST, RUMSFELD NOTED THAT IN SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES USE OF WORD "AUTHORIZED" WAS NORMAL. CONGRESS HAS EXPRESSED ITS WILL WITH RESPECT TO REDUCTION OF HEADQUARTERS AND SUPPORT PERSONNEL AND EXPECTS COMPLIANCE, AND IT HAS ALLOWED EXECUTIVE BRANCH LATITUDE TO USE THAT MILITARY MANPOWER IN WAYS AND IN PLACES WHICH IT DEEMS BEST. IT WOULD BE RARE, AND PERHAPS EVEN AN INFRINGEMENT OF RIGHTS OF EXECUTIVE BRANCE, IF CONGRESS WERE TO DIRECT SECDEF TO CONVERT 18,000 SPACES FROM NON-COMBAT TO COMBAT AND TO REQUIRE BY IMPLICATION A SPECIFIED MILITARY MANPOWER LEVEL IN ANY GEOGRAPHIC REGION.

4. RUMSFELD EXPLAINED THAT IN 1973 JACKSON-NUNN AMENDMENT HAD ATTRACTED SUFFICIENT VOTES THAT INITIATIVES OF SENATOR MANFIELD AND HIS BACKERS WERE DEFEATED. THE ADMINISTRATION WITH HELP OF ITS ALLIES HAS SUCCEEDED IN FY 74 IN EFFECTING SUBSTANTIAL COMPLIANCE WITH JACKSON-NUNN. DURING INTERIM SENATOR NUNN, WHO SEEMS NOT UNFRIENDLY TO ALLIANCE BUT NOT UNAWARE OR UNCRITICAL OF ITS SHORTCOMINGS, INSPECTED

FORCES IN EUROPE AND REACHED CERTAIN CONCLUSIONS. SECTION 302 REPRESENTS EFFORT BY SENATOR NUNN AND OTHER MEMBERS OF CONGRESS TO IMPROVE THE ALLIANCE AND AT SAME TIME HELP: 1) TO WARD OFF MEAT-AX UNILATERAL FORCE CUTS, 2) TO MOVE FROM ESSENTIALLY NEGATIVE BOP BASED JACKSON-NUNN FORMULATION TO MORE CONSTRUCTIVE PROPOSAL, CONFIDENTIAL

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3) TO ASSIST ADMINISTRATION, SECDEF AND U.S. MILITARY TO SOLVE SEVERAL PROBLEMS THAT HAVE VEXED NATO ALLIANCE FOR MANY YEARS. DE ROSE EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR THIS EXPLANATION, ADDING THAT FRENCH DEFMIN HAS JUST ISSUED ORDERS TO CONVERT 6 PERCENT OF FRENCH MILITARY PERSONNEL STRENGTH FROM TAIL TO TEETH.

5. IN DE ROSE'S VIEW SECTION 302(C) COULD BE READ TO MEAN A) U.S.

SEEKS TOTAL STANDARDIZATION OF WEAPONRY LIKE WARSAW PACT, AND B) CONGRESS PLANS REVIEW SECDEF'S SENIANNUAL REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS AND THEN, HAVING APPROVED THEM, WILL EXPECT U.S. IN NATO TO REQUIRE THAT ALLIED GOVERNMENTS COMPLY WITH ARMS STANDARDIZATION SCHEMES THAT ARE ENTIRELY OF AMERICAN ORIGIN. RUMSFELD SCOFFED AT SUCH A FAR-FETCHED INTERPRETATION, COMMENTING THAT SECRETARY LAIRD, SECRETARY SCHLESINGER AND ALMOST BY EVERY OTHER NATO DEFENSE MINISTER HAVE IN PUBLIC AND IN PRIVATE DEPLORED WASTE OF SCARCE RESOURCES AND URGED STANDARDIZATION/INTEROPERABILITY/RATIONALIZATION/SPECIALIZATION FOR MANY YEARS. MEMBERS OF CONGRESS KNOW ARMS PROCUREMENT QUESTION IS COMPLICATED; THEY HAVE GIVEN NO PRESCRIPTION BUT HAVE ASKED FOR REPORTS FROM SECDEF WITH VIEW TO IMPROVING ALLIANCE'S CONVENTIONAL COMBAT CAPABILITY. THEY, LIKE FRANCE AND OTHER ALLIES, KNOW THAT NATO IS AT WORK IN ALLIANCE DEFENSE AND TECHNOLOGY STUDY (ADIT) AND ON RATIONALIZATION/SPECIALIZATION PROJECT; AND THEY WANT TO SEE RESULTS. IT WOULD BE INACCURATE TO THINK THAT LANGUAGE MEANS THAT CONGRESS OR USG INTENDS PASS JUDGMENT ON ARMAMENTS POSSESSED BY ALLIED MILITARY; ON OTHER HAND, USG (EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATURE) IN DETERMINING LEVEL, COMPOSITION, AND EQUIPMENT PURCHASES FOR U.S. FORCES CANNOT, IN DISCHARGE THEIR OBLIGATIONS TO AMERICAN TAXPAYERS, REMAIN OBLIVIOUS TO WHAT ALLIES ARE CONTRIBUTING TO COMMON DEFENSE.

6. IN REPLY TO DE ROSE'S QUESTION ABOUT 302(D), RUMSFELD AGAIN ALLUDED TO LEGISLATIVE HISTORY AND MENTIONED CONCERN OFTEN VOICED BY SENATOR SYMINGTON AND OTHERS ABOUT NUMBER OF TACTICAL NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN EUROPE. HE ALSO RECALLED THAT SECRETARY KISSINGER HAD REFERRED TO SAME QUESTION DURING SAN CLEMENTE MEETING WITH PERMREPS IN SUMMER 1973. THE SUBJECT WAS ONE THAT BY ITS VERY NATURE REQUIRED CONTINUOUS REVIEW BY USG IN LIGHT OF TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCES AND CHANGING WORLD CONDITIONS. CONGRESS BY THIS PARAGRAPH HAS DEMONSTRATED ITS AWARENESS AND REQUESTED A REPORT BY SECDEF
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TO BOTH FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEES IN BOTH HOUSES. THERE IS CONCERN AMONG AMERICANS IN AND OUT OF GOVERNMENT ABOUT 1) BUDGETARY COSTS OF PRODUCING AND DEPLOYING NUCLEAR WEAPONS, 2) AMOUNT OF INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO PUBLIC ABOUT WEAPONS, THEIR EFFECTS AND PLANNED USES, 3) RELEVANCE OF MBFR OPTIONS, 4) PHYSICAL SECURITY OF WEAPONS IN LIGHT OF TERRORISTS ACTIVITIES, AND 5) WHETHER A WEAPONS NOW DEPLOYED ARE OF THE RIGHT TYPES AND IN THE RIGHT LOCATIONS. MEMBERS OF CONGRESS, RUMSFELD CONCLUDED, MUST SHOW THEIR CONSTITUENTS THAT THEY ARE ALERT AND ATTUNED TO THE TIMES; AND THEY SEEM TO BE DEMONSTRATING BY ENACTING 302(D) THAT THEY WANT TO SATISFY THEMSELVES THAT THE BUREAUCRATS AND THE MILITARY ARE COPING EFFECTIVELY WITH ACTUAL THREAT THAT FACES U.S. AND OUR ALLIES TODAY AND IN YEARS TO COME.

7. ON LEAVING DE ROSE SAID HE HAD BEEN UNAWARE PROVISIONS SECTION 302 UNTIL HE RECEIVED RUMSFELD'S LETTER; AND HE BELIEVED GOF WAS ALSO UNIFORMED. HE EXPRESSED THANKS FOR EXPLANATION WHICH WOULD BE MOST USEFUL TO HIS AUTHORITIES IN PARIS AND HE STRONGLY RECOMMENDED

THAT RUMSFELD DO BRIEFING ALONG SOME LINES TO SYG AND ALL NATO AMBASSADORS IN INFORMAL SETTING, PERHAPS AT EARLY PERMREPS LUNCH. OTHERWISE HE FEARED SECTION 302 WOULD ESCAPE ATTENTION IT MERITS OR BE MISUNDERSTOOD BY EUROPEANS.

8. COMMENT: I MAY DISCUSS SECTION 302 AT AN EARLY PERMREPS LUNCH NEXT MONTH. IF WASHINGTON HAS SUGGESTIONS, PLEASE ADVISE. END COMMENT.RUMSFELD

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